

Joseph Leckie Academy – Geography Department

The Geography Department currently consists of three full time and one part-time member of staff. In light of the inclusion of geography within the EBACC suite of subjects, we have seen an increase in the number of students opting for geography at Key Stage 4. There are 257 students studying geography between Years 9 and 11 across all abilities. Students currently study the AQA GCSE Specification at KS4 which allows progression onto the AQA A-Level Geography course at Post 16, where we have one Year 13 group and a Year 12 group for September 2019.

In geography, we have delivered a two-year Key Stage 3 (KS3) programme with a three-year GCSE programme of study since September 2008. We have taken the opportunity of the national KS3 reforms to completely re-write our Year 7 and Year 8 programmes of study to enable all students to access a wide range of topics, with equal covering of both physical and human themes. Programmes of study covered at KS3 include traditional topics such as geographical skills, population and settlement, ecosystems, rivers and coasts as well as more contemporary topics such as mapping using GIS and studies of the Middle East. The KS3 curriculum has been developed as a spiral curriculum to further support our students in making sustained and improved progress in KS4.

Opportunities to enhance learning through out of lesson experiences is important to us. At KS4 we offer all students two fieldwork opportunities in contrasting environments, Birmingham City Centre and Carding Mill Valley, as per AQA specification requirements. At Post 16 level students complete a residential in Wales to collect data for their coursework, then complete a place study in Digbeth in order to study two comparative areas. Fieldwork is an area we are looking to develop for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The Geography Department is located between the first and second floor of the newly opened Keith Whittlestone Building and benefits from four teaching rooms each equipped with touch screen TVs as well as personal computers with intranet and wireless connectivity. Please see the Academy's website for more details of this new build.

Throughout the year, the department links with the University of Birmingham allowing the training of ITTs at the Academy and we hope to continue this for many years to come.

The Academy is characterised by a supportive environment and the successful candidate will be mentored and will benefit from the opportunities provided for CPD through either the NQT or new staff induction programme.

Should you require any further information, do not hesitate to contact Mrs Robinson on 01922 721071 or email, s.robinson@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

Mrs Sarah Robinson
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